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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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Leading DHS News:

NIELSEN AGREES THAT RUSSIA MEDDLED IN ELECTION. [Politico](#) (7/19, O'Brien, 3.51M) reports Secretary Nielsen

"said Thursday that Russia undoubtedly interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, but declined to say directly that those efforts were aimed at helping elect Donald Trump. 'Russia was absolutely attempting to interfere in our election systems,' Nielsen said during an interview at the Aspen Security Forum." Nielsen "endorsed the U.S. intelligence community assessment of Russian meddling 'full stop,' she said later," but "pressed by moderator Peter Alexander of NBC News, Nielsen downplayed that the effort was aimed to benefit Trump, calling it 'an effort to attack certain political parties...more than others' and saying Russia's primary purpose is to 'sow discord' in the U.S. 'I haven't seen any evidence that the attempts to interfere in our election infrastructure was to favor a particular political party,' Nielsen said. 'I think what we've seen on the foreign influence side is they were attempting to intervene and cause chaos on both sides, right, whether it was in Charlottesville where we saw them on both sides, whether it's in Syria, both sides.' So, no, I would not necessarily say that was the purpose,' she said. 'I think the overall purpose is to sow discord and get us all to fight against each other rather than understand who the enemy is.'"

[Reuters](#) (7/19) reports that Nielsen "said the United States needed to be prepared for an attempt by Russia to interfere in elections in all 50 U.S. states this year, adding that there was no question Moscow interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential contest. 'I don't think there's any question in the intel community or at DHS that Russians attempted to infiltrate and interfere with our electoral system,' she said. 'I don't think there's any doubt that they did it, and I think we should all be prepared given that capability and will – that they'll do it again.'"

The [AP](#) (7/19, Riechmann) reports that Nielsen "says she has not seen evidence that the Russians meddled in the 2016 election to help elect Trump, countering the U.S. intelligence agencies assessment on the issue." According to the AP, Nielsen said: "I haven't seen any evidence that the attempts to interfere in our election infrastructure was to favor a particular party." The AP adds, "And yet Nielsen still says she stands behind the intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia meddled in the election. She added that Russia's influence operations were aimed at causing chaos on both sides."

Catherine Herridge reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/19, 2.57M) that Secretary Nielsen "confirmed that Russia meddled in the 2016 election." However, Nielsen was shown saying, "I haven't seen any evidence that the attempt to interfere in our election infrastructure was to favor a particular party." Ivan Perez reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/19, 1.08M) that Nielsen "refused to say flatly what the intelligence community says – that Putin and the Kremlin really wanted to hurt Hillary Clinton and help Donald Trump in terms of the election."

[CBS News](#) (7/19, Tillett, 6.78M) reports, "On the question of whether Putin himself directed the call to interfere in the U.S. election, Nielsen said that the 2016 attack was carried out by 'Russian government actors' and that the public 'can all draw conclusions what that means,'" but "she also said that despite the intelligence communities findings, she hadn't seen any evidence that the attempts to interfere in the country's election infrastructure 'was to favor a particular party.'"

[NBC News](#) (7/19, 5.76M) reports, "When pressed to say explicitly whether Russia favored Trump and Republicans in its influence campaign and in its hacking of Democratic Party emails, Nielsen only said that she agreed with the assessment of the intelligence community." NBC News adds, "The assessment found that Russian efforts favored Trump and the Republican Party, but Nielsen would not definitively comment on that piece of the report." Nielsen "said 'it would be foolish' to think Russia is not still interfering with the U.S. electoral system. 'They have the capability, they have the will. We've got to be prepared,' she said."

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/19, Smith, 420K) reports that Nielsen "said in a recent interview that she has been directed by President Donald Trump to secure and protect future elections from meddling. 'Yes, we have had meetings with the president, we have another one coming up...at a very high level we're information sharing, we're giving them intel they need, technical systems, and then we're helping them be prepared for instant response,' Nielsen responded. 'I'm happy to report it was on Saturday that all 50 states are now working with us, in some cases they're using our services extensively, in other cases they're growing organically, and in some cases they're hiring outside expertise.'"

[ABC News](#) (7/19, Levine, 1.85M) reports that Secretary Nielsen, "charged with helping to stop foreign hackers from breaking into U.S. systems, says it's still not clear whether President Donald Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this week will produce any significant results, but Trump 'continues to work on the relationship.' 'I think it's too early to tell, 'Was it good?'" Nielsen said of Trump's meeting with Putin. Nielsen "said Trump's efforts to connect with Putin and establish 'productive conversation' are 'very important,' noting that Trump is 'interested in continuing the engagement.' 'He's continuing to think about strategies,' trying to determine 'what is most important on the list to work with Vladimir Putin,' who Nielsen said has 'a particular goal' to become a 'strong power' and 'counter American power.'" Also reporting on Nielsen's comments about Russian election meddling are [The Week](#) (7/19, Meza, 1.99M), the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/19, Correll, 340K), the [Daily Beast](#) (7/19, Woodruff, 1.69M), and [The Independent \(UK\)](#) (7/19, Shugerman, 1.35M).

NIELSEN: “WE HAVE TO FIX” IMMIGRATION SYSTEM. The [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (7/19, Sackariason) reports, “Saying repeatedly that this country’s immigration system and the laws that dictate separating children from their parents at the border are fundamentally flawed,” Secretary Nielsen “said Thursday in Aspen that she will do her best to meet a court-set deadline to reunite families. ‘We will do our best, but we will not cut corners,’ Nielsen said, adding, “This is about the protection of the child.” Nielsen “spoke for an hour with NBC News’ Peter Alexander in the Doerr Hosier Center as part of the Aspen Security Forum. ‘We have 10,000 unaccompanied children right now in DHS care,’ Nielsen said. “So, these parents sent them on this journey without any parental supervision with smugglers, traffickers, with other adults. They have no advocates. They are here alone. DHS is taking care of them. So we have to fix the system.” Nielsen “said the problem with the immigration system is that the ideals and empirical truths that Americans have cannot be true at the same time. ‘Kids should be with their parents, countries should be able to protect borders, governments should be able to protect communities,’ she said, adding that it is the job of Congress to fix the system with new laws.”

[Politico](#) (7/19, O’Brien, 3.51M) reports that Nielsen, “who has defended family separation and instead blamed Congress for not acting to prevent it, argued efforts to reunify families are ‘about the protection of the child.’ ‘A good portion of these adults showing up are not their family,’ she said.” [Reuters](#) (7/19, Staff) also reports.

NIELSEN DISCUSSES TRUMP’S COMMENTS ON CHARLOTTESVILLE VIOLENCE. [Newsweek](#) (7/19, Goodkind, 2.18M) reports that Secretary Nielsen “discussed Trump’s controversial comments that there were ‘fine people on both sides’ of the white supremacist riots in Charlottesville, Virginia, last summer.” Nielsen “explained that ‘it’s not that one side was right and one side was wrong.’ Instead, she said, ‘anybody that is advocating violence, we need to work to mitigate.’”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/19, O’Connor, 4.32M) reports, “a reporter pressed her to say whether Trump’s inflammatory remark in the aftermath of the violence – that there were ‘very fine people on both sides’ of the rally – affected her ability to keep Americans safe. ‘When he placed blame on, in his words, “on both sides,” does that make your job harder, when the president says things that, at least in [white supremacist] communities, are viewed as, “He’s got our back”? NBC News correspondent Peter Alexander asked Nielsen during their sit-down.” Nielsen “eventually echoed the president’s controversial statement in her response. ‘No matter who it is, I think what’s important about that conversation is, it’s not that one side is right, one side is wrong,’ Nielsen said.” Nielsen “also suggested that the violence at the Charlottesville rally may have been prompted by outside actors. ‘Maybe there were different – whether it was foreign influence or different purposeful attempts to get both sides, if you will, aggressively pitted against each other,’ she said.”

[Vice](#) (7/19, Owen, 1.5M) reports, “Nielsen was also asked about whether Homeland Security had prioritized the threat of far-right extremism since Charlottesville, and what it had been doing to address it. ‘DHS has made a priority to focus on all forms of violence,’ Nielsen replied. ‘We obviously have what we had been traditionally looking at, out of radical Islam. We have the homegrown extremists, whatever camp they fall in. We also have white supremacists or other groups who self-profess that their purpose or motive is violence.’” Nielsen “said that, to address extremism across the board, DHS was looking at ‘counter-messaging’ and ‘off-ramping,’ which is the term she uses to get someone off the path of radicalization.” [The Week](#) (7/19, Meza, 1.99M) also reports.

DHS News:

US EXTENDS TEMPORARY LEGAL STATUS FOR SOMALIS. The [AP](#) (7/19, Long, Forliti) reports, “The Trump administration said Thursday that Somalis granted special immigration status in the U.S. can keep the designation, making them one of the few groups permitted to stay in the U.S. under a program that has allowed them to remain here for years.” According to the AP, “Somalia was first designated for the special status in 1991, following the collapse of the authoritarian Siad Barre regime, and the designation had been extended in part because nationals feared returning because of the ongoing armed conflict there.” Secretary Nielsen “cited the armed conflict and other extraordinary conditions in supporting the continuation of Somalia’s designation for about 500 people,” but “the administration will not take on new applicants, disappointing advocacy groups.” The AP adds, “Those already with the status will be able to remain in the U.S. and will be allowed to work through March 17, 2020.”

[Reuters](#) (7/19, Staff) reports, “Somalis in the United States with Temporary Protected Status will be able to re-register for an extension of their status through March 17, 2020, according to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security.” The status “grants beneficiaries the ability to legally work while they are in the United States. ‘After carefully reviewing conditions in Somalia with interagency partners, (DHS) Secretary (Kirstjen) Nielsen determined the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions that support Somalia’s current designation for TPS continue to exist,’ the statement said.”

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/19, Serres, 1.16M) reports that Secretary Nielsen “announced an 18-month extension of temporary legal status for approximately 500 Somalis who now live and work in the United States, citing the ongoing armed conflict and ‘extraordinary and temporary conditions’ in the country.” According to the Tribune, “The decision to

extend the designation saves many Somali families – including some who have lived and worked here for nearly three decades – from having to make an agonizing decision over whether to stay and risk deportation.” The Tribune adds, “Those who chose to stay would live in constant fear and anxiety over being deported back to a country where chronic armed conflict and a devastating drought have led to mass displacement, and where large swaths of the nation are controlled by the Somali Islamic terror group al-Shabab. ‘If this program had not been extended, then hundreds would have been forced into this Orwellian choice – either go into hiding [in the U.S.], or leave and be permanently deprived of love and companionship,’ said John Keller, executive director of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. ‘The odds would have been very high that you would never see your family again.’”

[PBS NewsHour](#) (7/19, Long, 759K) reports, “Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton wrote a letter to President Donald Trump on Tuesday, urging him to extend the special status.” Dayton’s letter “said the conditions in Somalia are treacherous, and he pointed to a recent State Department advisory that tells people to avoid traveling to Somalia because of crime, terrorism and piracy.” The advisory “says those who do travel to Somalia should draft a will before traveling, name a family member to be a point of contact in the event of a hostage situation and leave a DNA sample in case it is needed to identify remains. ‘Under those conditions, it would be horribly “Un-American” to force innocent people to return to Somalia, to break up many of their families, and to forgo their chances to live safe and decent lives,’ Dayton wrote.”

The [AP](#) (7/19) reports, “Advocates for Somali nationals who are living in the United States say they are disappointed that the Trump administration chose to extend – and not redesignate – a special protected status for Somalis.” The Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the International Rescue Committee, and Muslim Advocates “all say they are relieved that about 500 Somalis will be able to re-register to extend their protected status for 18 months. But they say that if the administration would have redesignated the status, more than 1,000 Somali nationals could have enrolled.” The International Rescue Committee “says extending the status sends a signal that the administration recognizes Somalia is unsafe, but failing to redesignate the status leaves some Somalis at risk.”

The [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (7/19, Hyatt, 49K) reports, “For many Somalis living in Fargo-Moorhead, an announcement made by the President Donald Trump administration Thursday, July 19, was a relief. ‘It’s great news,’ said Hukun Abdullahi, Executive Director of the Afro American Development Association in Moorhead.” Abdullahi “said he was ‘hopeful’ after first hearing about the 18-month extension of the Temporary Protected Status for Somalia. ‘I know a lot Somalis who are on TPS,’ he said. ‘I’m excited to explain to them it doesn’t affect you guys. A lot needs to be done, but now this is a relief.’” [Law360](#) (7/19, Narea, Subscription Publication, 8K) also reports.

Border Security:

IMMIGRANT TRANSPORTING CHARGES AGAINST ACTIVIST DISMISSED. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (7/19, Contreras, 1.59M) reports, “Prosecutors in San Antonio have dismissed immigrant transporting charges against a Chicano activist and lawyer arrested this month after allegedly picking up a pair of undocumented immigrants in rural Dimmit County.” Armando Treviño, 71, of Laredo, TX “was scheduled for a preliminary hearing Thursday in San Antonio, but it was canceled because the U.S. attorney’s office dismissed a criminal complaint Wednesday, records show.” The Express-News adds, “Treviño was part of the 1960s movement in Crystal City that led to student walkouts in protest of discrimination against Mexican-Americans, who were subjected to treatment such as being forced to sit at the back of the classroom, barred from speaking Spanish and banned from eating Mexican food in the cafeteria.” According to the Express-News, “The affidavit of the criminal complaint filed against Treviño said an off-duty Border Patrol agent traveling north on U.S. 83 about 4:30 p.m. July 2 reported seeing two men he believed to be undocumented immigrants get into a maroon Toyota SUV beside the road.” Border Patrol agents “from the Cotulla station traveling west on FM 133, which connects U.S. 83 to Interstate 35, pulled over a vehicle matching the description heading east with three occupants.” They “arrested Treviño, who was driving, and two Honduran men.”

CALIFORNIA CBP OFFICERS FIND \$122K IN METH HIDDEN IN CAR DOORS. [KYMA-TV](#) Yuma, AZ (7/19, Bedoya) reports from Anrade, CA, “Around \$122,000 worth of methamphetamine was found inside the doors of a vehicle by Customs and Border Protection officers at the Andrade Port of Entry Wednesday afternoon.” According to KYMA-TV, “At approximately 3:30 p.m., a canine team alerted to a 2009 Toyota Corolla that was driven by a 44-year-old man,” and “during the inspection, a canine team helped officers discover 39 wrapped packages of methamphetamine and one package of heroin inside the doors of the Toyota.” KYMA-TV adds, “The narcotics’ weight was 45 pounds of meth and one pound of heroin with a combined estimated street value of \$122,000. ‘The officer’s ability to interdict contraband at the port of entry is a good example of CBP’s effort to secure our border, and prevents these dangerous drugs from entering our community,’ said Andrade Acting Port Director Martin Cuesta.” The driver, “a Mexicali citizen who resides in Mexicali, Baja California, was arrested for an alleged narcotics smuggling attempt,” and “he was turned over to Homeland Security Investigation and later transported to Imperial County Jail.”

Aviation Security:

TSA LAUNCHES NEW TRAINING PROGRAM FOR AIRPORT SCREENERS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/19, Martin, 4.03M) reports, “Faced with an unusually high turnover rate among airport screeners, the Transportation Security Administration is starting a program to ‘foster career growth’ by letting screeners learn new skills while on the job,” and “the union representing TSA workers likes the sentiment, but says the program, which launches Aug. 5, doesn’t go far enough.” The Times adds, “the TSA has had a hard time retaining screeners, with the turnover rate among TSA officers as high as 19%, according to a congressional budget report,” and “with that in mind, the TSA announced a program earlier this month to help newly hired screeners learn new skills on the job, such as operating the X-ray machine or the full-body scanner, among other things.” The TSA officers “who agree to train the new screeners while on the job will be paid an extra \$300 per quarter, on top of their regular salary. ‘We are committed to investing in our transportation security officers by giving them the tools they need to grow,’ TSA Administrator David Pekoske said in a statement.” According to the Times, Bobby Orozco Jr., “a TSA screener at Los Angeles International Airport and president of the local union for TSA workers, said the program doesn’t guarantee promotions and the pay increase is a one-time, lump sum that doesn’t count toward higher retirement benefits.”

TSA CONTINUES CT TESTING. [USA Today](#) (7/19, Jansen, 11.4M) reports that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) “announced Thursday that it will soon begin testing a 3D scanner for carry-on bags with American Airlines at New York’s JFK airport.” TSA has been testing computer tomography (CT) at “Phoenix Terminal 4 and Boston Terminal E since June 2017” using machines from L3 Technologies, Analogic, and Integrated Defense and Security Solutions. An Analogic ConnectCT scanner will be used during the test at JFK, expected to begin this month. Congress is considering providing \$71 million to TSA next year for 145 CT machines.

MARYLAND MAN WALKED THROUGH BWI TSA CHECKPOINT WITH KNIFE. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (7/13, Campbell, 570K) reports that a Westminster, MD man “managed to walk through a Transportation Security Administration checkpoint at BWI Marshall Airport with a knife in his waistband and no boarding pass on the night before the Fourth of July, authorities confirmed Thursday.” John Edward Hill, Jr., 23, “was stopped just after 11:30 p.m. while trying to open a secured door at a gate in the airport’s international E Concourse – at which point airline employees realized he did not have a boarding pass, according to Maryland Transportation Authority Police.” According to the Sun, “MdTA police officers responded with a canine unit and patted Hill down, finding ‘a small knife’ in his waistband, said an MdTA police spokesman, Cpl. Edward Bartlinski.” The TSA “immediately began an internal review to determine how Hill was able to walk through the security checkpoint without scanning a ticket – and how the knife went undiscovered during the screening process, agency spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein said in a statement.”

TSA OFFERS TIPS ON TRAVELING WITH COMIC-CON MERCHANDISE. The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Kunkle, 15.68M) reports, “The Transportation Security Administration wants sci-fi and comic book aficionados to know that it’s perfectly okay to board a commercial airline with a full-scale Star Wars blaster,” but it “has to go into checked luggage, along with any other replica weapons one might score at Comic-Con International, whose annual gathering opens Thursday in San Diego.” The Post adds, “A year after United Airlines created a small blip in the time-space continuum by banning comic books in checked bags – supposedly at the behest of the TSA – the federal agency this week issued friendly neighborhood pointers so fans could avoid Comic-Con-related hassles at airport checkpoints or heartbreak over damaged collector’s items. ‘Every year during Comic-Con International, our officers have issues with the various items that people purchase and then either carry-on or place in their checked bags,’ the TSA said on its blog. ‘These come in the form of figurines, costume items (including replica and real weapons) and other mementos that generally alarm our checkpoint and checked baggage screening systems and result in a bag check.’”

JUDGE DEEMS “SERIAL STOWAWAY” FIT TO STAND TRIAL. [Fox News](#) (7/19, Lam, 16.38M) reports, “A woman dubbed a ‘serial stowaway’ was deemed fit to stand trial and ordered by a judge on Wednesday to wear a GPS-equipped monitoring device following her release from a state mental health hospital.” Marilyn Hartman, 66, “was ordered by Cook County Judge Maura Slattery-Boyle to stay clear of any airport, train station or bus station while she’s awaiting for trial – a request that has proved to be challenging for the ‘serial stowaway’ in the past.” Hartman “faces several charges stemming from two January arrests,” and “four months ago, Slattery-Boyle said Harman was unfit to stand trial and ordered her to a mental health facility in Elgin,” but on Wednesday, “the judge changed her decision and saw improvements in Hartman.” Hartman “was taken into custody in late January after she allegedly refused to leave the airport, just two days after she was released from jail,” and “she was arrested earlier that month when she bypassed Transportation Security Administration checkpoint at the O’Hare airport and boarded a British Airways flight without a ticket or boarding pass.”

Immigration Policy:

TRUMP: DEMOCRATS’ “ABOLISH ICE” PUSH A POLITICAL “DEATH WISH.” President Trump [tweeted](#) yesterday,

"The Democrats have a death wish, in more ways than one – they actually want to abolish ICE. This should cost them heavily in the Midterms. Yesterday, the Republicans overwhelmingly passed a bill supporting ICE!" The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Muñoz, 460K) reports Trump's tweet, and adds "Democrats are divided over calls to end ICE, with demands to abolish the agency rooted in the more progressive side of the party."

Fox & Friends Highlights House Republicans' Support For ICE And Border Wall Funding. On [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/19, 1.21M), Steve Doocy said, "How many times in the last couple of weeks have you heard people, largely from the political left, targeting the men and women of ICE, saying...ICE is a terrorist outfit? How many times have we heard them say we have got to abolish ICE? Yesterday, the House of Representatives actually gave the Democrats the opportunity to officially go on the record and say, 'I want to abolish ICE.' But...a majority of them said...'I'm not taking a stand.'" Ainsley Earhardt said that 34 Democrats voted against a resolution supporting ICE, while 18 supported the resolution and 133 voted "present." According to the story, 226 House Republicans backed the resolution. Brian Kilmeade also reported that a House Homeland Security appropriations committee has proposed spending \$5 billion on a border wall next year. Kilmeade said he thinks Trump would be satisfied with that level of spending.

Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/19, 2.11M), Rep. Kevin Yoder, who secured the border-wall funding in an appropriations bill, said, "We have to get the bill through Congress. ... And we have to make the case to the American people, that this is not about politics, but keeping America safe. We're focusing personnel, technology and barriers where we need it most. We are looking 200 miles of new barriers stopping flow of drugs and human trafficking coming from across the border." Yoder added, "We can stop the flow upstream by having proper border security, and I think it is shameful that the left is going to try to block us on this in the Senate using the filibuster because they want to stop anything that will help border security."

Rep. John Delaney said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/19, 2.57M), "The majority of Democrats I serve with do not want to abolish ICE. We don't think the problem is ICE, we think the problem is the President." He voted "present" on that bill because "I read the resolution carefully and it wasn't accurate. It said that if ICE were to go away, then we would have no border security, which isn't actually true, because Customs watches our borders, not ICE. So, the resolution was kind of poorly drafted, in my opinion. So it wasn't really to me a vote on whether I supported ICE elimination or not. I thought it was a poorly drafted political stunt. So, what we all decided to do was to sort of reject that game that they were playing."

GALLUP POLL: IMMIGRATION TOP ISSUE FOR VOTERS AHEAD OF MIDTERMS. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/19, Racke, 420K) reports "immigration is the number one answer when Americans are asked what issue is the most pressing problem facing the country, according to [Gallup latest poll](#)." The DC adds that "in fact, the share of people who say immigration is the most important issue is higher now than at any time in the past 17 years that Gallup has been asking the question." The survey "found that 22 percent of Americans said in July that immigration tops their list of concerns, edging out the 19 percent who said 'dissatisfaction with the government.'" That "is an eight-point bump since June, when just 14 percent put immigration at the top of the list."

SOME DEPORTED IMMIGRANTS WANT CHILDREN TO STAY IN US WITHOUT THEM. On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19, A1, Sieff, 15.68M) reports that some parents who crossed into the US with their children and are facing deportation "think that the best option for their children might be the thing they most dread – to remain apart." One couple, who have been deported to Guatemala, believe that if their 10-year-old son, currently being held "at a migrant shelter 1,700 miles away," is reunited with them, "his life would be a foregone conclusion – sporadic work on a coffee plantation, helping pay off his father's debts." Other families fear having their children returned to violence-wracked nations.

HHS Office Working To Match Parents With Detained Children. The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Miroff, Sacchetti, Goldstein, 15.68M) has a feature on the HHS office that has become "an emergency command bunker" for federal workers "sifting through the case files of migrant children, matching them to parents in U.S. immigration jails and planning their reunions."

ADMINISTRATION: MORE THAN 300 OLDER CHILDREN REUNITED WITH FAMILIES. The [AP](#) (7/19, Spagat, Merchant) reports from San Diego that the Trump Administration "said Thursday that it has reunified 364 children ages 5 and older with their families after they were separated at the border, still leaving hundreds to go before a court-imposed deadline a week away." The Justice Department "reaffirmed in a court filing that it has identified 2,551 children who may be covered by U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw's order," and that "more than 900 are either 'not eligible or not yet known to the eligible,' the vast majority of them undergoing evaluation to verify parentage and ensure the children are safe." ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt "said he was concerned about the high number of children who have not been cleared for reunification."

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (7/19, Davis, 664K) reports, "With one week left under a federal judge's deadline to reunify

families separated at the border, the Trump administration on Thursday said 364 children age 5 and older have rejoined their parents,” but “that’s only a fraction of the 2,551 children in that age group who’ve been identified for possible reunification.” According to the U-T, “The government’s latest status report on the effort does not speculate on whether it will make the July 26 deadline, only saying that the new truncated process to match up families and clear parents for reunification ‘is proceeding.’”

ADMINISTRATION FINDS 1,606 MIGRANT PARENTS POSSIBLY ELIGIBLE FOR REUNIFICATION WITH CHILDREN.

[CNN](#) (7/19, Jarrett, 82.6M) reports, “Facing a looming deadline to reunite of hundreds of migrant families by next week, the Trump administration said Thursday it had found at least 1,606 parents potentially eligible for reunification with their children, but more than 900 may not be at this point.” CNN adds, “According to the latest estimates provided in a court filing Thursday, 2,551 children aged between 5 and 17 were separated from their parents at the border, and thus far, 364 from that group have been reunited.” According to CNN, “Of the parents the government claims are ineligible for reunification, two are in state or federal custody, 136 ‘waived’ reunification rights when interviewed, 91 had a criminal record or were otherwise deemed ineligible,” but “the largest group – mostly likely to cause further questions – are 679 that require ‘further evaluation.’”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/19, Mehrotra, 4.46M) reports, “The government previously said it returned 58 children under the age of 5 to their parents, bringing the total to 422.” US District Judge Dana Sabraw “scheduled a hearing Friday to discuss the government’s update. Last month he ordered all the children reunited by July 26.”

BUZZFEED ANALYSIS: JUDGES SKEPTICAL OF ADMINISTRATION’S ABILITY TO MEET REUNIFICATION DEADLINE.

[BuzzFeed](#) (7/19, Tillman, 4.45M) reports, “Some judges aren’t convinced the government will be able to meet a court-ordered deadline to reunite parents and children separated at the border by the end of the month.” BuzzFeed adds, “In the past two weeks, two federal judges – one in Chicago and one in Washington, DC – ordered the administration to reunite separated parents and children who filed individual lawsuits, setting deadlines before the nationwide July 26 reunification deadline set by US District Judge Dana Sabraw.” The judges “rejected the Justice Department’s arguments that multiple orders would interfere with the administration’s reunification efforts, concluding that the harm suffered by separated children required immediate action.” According to BuzzFeed, “The orders are a harbinger of litigation to come if the administration fails to meet Sabraw’s deadline.” Karen Hoffman, “a lawyer in one of the Chicago cases where a judge ordered faster reunifications, said more lawsuits on behalf of individual families are likely if the government has trouble reunifying the families covered under Sabraw’s order.”

EXPERTS SAY TRUMP’S IMMIGRATION POLICIES MAKE BORDERS LESS SAFE. [CNN](#) (7/19, Sanchez, Valencia, Kopan, 82.6M) reports that President Trump “has said that he wants immigration policy that secures the border,” but “his aggressive policy has instead resulted in organized crime groups preying on droves of desperate asylum seekers who have been turned away by US authorities, according to people familiar with the smuggling operations.” CNN adds, “Experts said the administration’s now-reversed policy of prosecuting parents who cross the border illegally – thus separating children from their families – and the elimination of domestic violence and gang violence as grounds for asylum is having another result: Further strengthening ties between human smugglers, other organized crime groups and corrupt local law enforcement along the border. ‘Ironically, these policies that claim to be trying to clamp down and secure the border and stop smuggling and stop traffickers... actually empower the traffickers, the cartels, the smugglers,’ says Michelle Brané, director of the Migrant Rights and Justice program at the Women’s Refugee Commission.”

WPOST CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF CENSUS CITIZENSHIP QUESTION. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19, 15.68M) writes that adding a question about citizenship to the 2020 Census always “looked suspiciously like an underhanded way to depress Democratic representation in Washington,” and now US District Judge Jesse Furman has agreed, “remarking in court this month that there is a strong appearance of ‘bad faith’ and that the Trump administration’s rationale for adding the question appears to be nothing more than pretext.” The move “is highly likely to depress response rates among immigrants,” which “would make urban centers in blue states look less populous and, therefore, less deserving of money and representation.” The Post calls on Commerce Secretary Ross to “eliminate the new question.”

Immigration Enforcement:

ICE ACTING DIRECTOR: AGENCY UNDETERRED BY CALLS FOR ABOLITION. [Newsweek](#) (7/19, Silva, 2.18M) reports ICE acting Director Ronald Vitiello “said the agency ‘will not be deterred by threats’ from the growing movement calling on the Trump administration to abolish the agency.” Vitiello expressed support for a House non-binding resolution in support of the agency, saying, “I am grateful to the members of Congress who today publicly declared their support for the brave, dedicated men and women of ICE. We will continue to fulfill our sworn oaths to enforce federal immigration and customs laws.”

SENATE DEMOCRATS QUESTION ICE ARRESTS OF US CITIZENS’ SPOUSES. [CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (7/19, Lesniewski,

117K) reports, "Some Senate Democrats are alarmed by what may be a pattern of ICE making arrests when immigrants are conducting routine business at citizenship and immigration services offices." CQ Roll Call adds, "In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and the acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement chief Ronald Vitiello, a group of 10 Senate Democrats cited examples of married couples being separated at USCIS facilities when one partner may not have legal status but the other member of the couple is an American citizen. 'Although both couples were legally married, the undocumented spouses in each case had outstanding deportation orders that they were trying to remedy through the appropriate process as prescribed in U.S. law,' the senators wrote. 'Ripping apart families and punishing those who are trying to come out of the shadows does not make us safer, nor is it the best use of ICE's time and resources. Moreover, it sends a chilling effect to other immigrants who seek to adjust their status and therefore must interact with USCIS.'"

PHILADELPHIA OFFICIALS SAY ICE "LIKELY" VIOLATES DATA-SHARING PACT. [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/19, Orso, Madej, Gambardello, 551K) reports, "Top members of" Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney's administration "believe federal immigration officials are likely violating a data-sharing arrangement, a stance revealed this week in a contentious back-and-forth between city officials and local leadership of Immigration and Customs Enforcement." Last week, City Solicitor Marcel S. Pratt "requested that local ICE officials meet with administration leadership to discuss how the agency is using the Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System (PARS), a city-operated database of arrests and bail information that is shared with ICE via a contract that ends Aug. 31." City spokesperson Deana Gamble "said senior administration officials met Wednesday with ICE, saying only that 'the meeting was very productive, and there may be some follow-up exchanges,'" but "before that meeting, ICE field office director Simona L. Flores sent a letter Monday in which she said that ICE was not in breach of its contract and that the city has failed to provide any examples of such conduct."

NEW YORK CHEF DETAINED BY ICE. The [Kingston \(NY\) Daily Freeman](#) (7/19, Pineiro, 22K) reports, "Juan Carlos Alonso Vasquez's past might have come back to haunt him on Wednesday." Vasquez "had agreed to work an early shift at The Anchor restaurant and bar on Broadway in Midtown but he never made it to work, his boss said Thursday morning." Brandy Walters said Vasquez, 29, "a 10-year Kingston resident from Oaxaca, Mexico, who has worked at The Anchor as head grill chef for the past two years, was picked up by officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sometime around 8:30 a.m. Wednesday." Vasquez was arrested in 2011 "by Rosendale police and charged with the misdemeanors of drunken driving and aggravated drunken driving after a property-damage accident on Lucas Turnpike in the town," and "on Thursday, the Rosendale Town Court clerk said Vasquez accepted a plea deal and pleaded guilty on March 29, 2011, to the misdemeanor of driving with a blood-alcohol level exceeding the legal limit of 0.08 percent."

FLORIDA ICE PROTESTERS CHARGED WITH UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY. The [AP](#) (7/19) reports from Miramar, FL, "At least 17 protesters face charges after blocking a roadway outside a South Florida office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement." The Miramar Police Department said Thursday "that the protesters face charges of unlawful assembly and obstructing a highway for the protest on Wednesday at a busy intersection in Miramar, Florida." Officials "say the protesters set up tents and chairs in the road and used their bodies to stop traffic," and "the police department says hundreds of vehicles had to be diverted during the protest."

LOUISVILLE POLICE DISMANTLE "OCCUPY ICE" ENCAMPMENT. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (7/19, Costello, 419K) reports, "Occupy ICE Louisville protesters argue the city's crackdown on their 17-day-old encampment outside the federal immigration building Thursday was 'heavy-handed,' but police maintain it was necessary to bring the camp in line with laws." The Courier-Journal adds, "Dozens of officers tore down tents, removed objects and set up bike racks as barricades in order to, officials said, bring the demonstration into compliance with state law and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Police had previously requested protesters create a 4-foot-wide path on the sidewalk." According to the Courier-Journal, "Protesters at the encampment, dubbed Camp Compasión, were given a 15-minute warning at 6 a.m. Thursday," and "no one 'moved to move anything,' so officers began collecting items and throwing away trash, Louisville police spokeswoman Jessie Halladay said," and "by 9 a.m., the camp was gone."

Criminal Investigations:

EX-BAGGAGE HANDLER SENTENCED IN ATLANTA AIRPORT GUN SMUGGLING CASE. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/19, Yamanouchi, 1.09M) reports, "A former Delta Air Lines baggage handler was sentenced Thursday to 30 months in prison for allegedly smuggling guns onto passenger planes at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport." The AJC adds, "According to U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Byung J. 'BJay' Pak, 34-year-old Eugene Harvey of College Park as a Delta baggage handler used his security badge to smuggle guns to restricted areas at the Atlanta airport in 2014." The AJC adds, "At food courts or in men's restrooms on airport concourses, Harvey allegedly transferred the firearms to a former Delta employee, who hid the guns in carry-on bags and took them onto flights from Atlanta to New York. The guns were then illegally sold in New York, according to the U.S. Attorney's office." Harvey "trafficked a total of 135 firearms between Georgia and New York, according to the U.S. Attorney's office."

BANKS GET TOOLS TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKERS MOVING PROFITS. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Wulhorst) reports, "A set of sophisticated tools will help financial institutions uncover profits from human trafficking – estimated at \$150 billion per year – that are moving through their systems, an anti-trafficking coalition said on Thursday." According to Reuters, "Tools to detect suspicious transactions will allow companies to more easily spot traffickers using their banking or money-moving services to handle profits, said organizers of United States Banks Alliance. 'Like any crime that creates revenue, they still have to figure out a way to conceal those funds,' said Mark Selby, special agent in charge for U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, which is part of the alliance. 'They use the formal banking system to continue and carry out their activities,' he said."

FLORIDA GUN DEALER SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING AK-47S TO BRAZIL. The [Miami Herald](#) (7/19, Weaver, 1.07M) reports, "A gun dealer who pocketed millions from selling weapons to criminals in his native Brazil was sentenced to about 13 years in prison on Thursday for smuggling more than 1,000 firearms – including assault-style rifles hidden in water heaters shipped from Miami to Rio de Janeiro." Frederik Barbieri, 47, "who was arrested with a cache of weapons at his Florida home, admitted in Miami federal court that he exported high-powered rifles with obliterated serial numbers to Brazil, where guns are sold on the black market to street gangs and drug traffickers in the favelas, or slums, of urban areas." US District Judge Federico Moreno "gave him a slight break under the sentencing guidelines for his conviction because Barbieri has assisted federal and Brazilian authorities in the massive gun-smuggling investigation." The Herald adds, "When agents with the Department of Homeland Security Investigations searched Barbieri's warehouse in Vero Beach in February, they found 52 assault-type rifles, almost all of which had obliterated serial numbers and were wrapped for shipment."

DRIVER IN FATAL TEXAS SUV CRASH AMONG FIVE CHARGED IN SMUGGLING SCHEME. The [AP](#) (7/19, Tarinelli) reports from Dallas, "A 20-year-old man indicted in an alleged immigrant smuggling scheme was under federal supervision when he led authorities in Texas on a high-speed chase and crashed an SUV, killing five of the 14 people inside, according to court records." Federal prosecutors "said the driver, Jorge Luis Monsivais Jr., and four others were indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Del Rio, Texas, for their roles in the alleged smuggling scheme." All five "face multiple federal counts, including conspiracy to harbor illegal immigrants." The AP adds, "Authorities say Monsivais crashed a Chevrolet Suburban as he entered Big Wells, a town about 100 miles southwest of San Antonio," and that "five immigrants in the U.S. illegally died from the June 17 crash."

Secret Service:

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN FOR FALLEN SECRET SERVICE OFFICER'S FAMILY EXCEEDS GOAL. [The Hill](#) (7/19, Birnbaum, 2.71M) reports, "A crowdsourcing campaign for the family of the Secret Service officer who passed away on Tuesday," Nole Remagen, "has far exceeded its initial goal." The GoFundMe page "originally set its goal at \$150,000. As of Thursday, the campaign had raised more than \$212,000 and the goal was extended to \$250,000."

MAINE MEN ARRESTED. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (7/19, Hoey, 157K) reports, "Three Portland men were arrested in the Scarborough Walmart parking lot Wednesday after a police officer found them in possession of a stolen, loaded weapon, a stolen motor vehicle, fentanyl powder, a large amount of counterfeit money, and an embosser machine used to manufacture counterfeit credit cards." Scarborough police indicated in a release that the Secret Service is assisting with the case.

Emergency Response:

TORNADO CAUSES MAJOR DAMAGE AFTER TOUCHING DOWN IN IOWA. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/19, lead story, 2:00, Muir, 7.71M) led off its Thursday edition with coverage of a large tornado that touched down in Marshalltown, Iowa. At the time ABC aired its story, there were "reports of catastrophic damage coming in." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 3, 0:25, Holt, 7.33M) reported that the Marshalltown twister was part of a "major outbreak of tornadoes." The report described a severe weather threat that stretched "from Iowa to Arkansas, with Kansas City, St. Louis and Little Rock among the cities in the risk area." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 4, 0:55, Glor, 5.76M) reported that "severe storms, including tornadoes," moved through parts of Iowa on Thursday. The storm system "left a trail of destruction" in its wake.

FEDERAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR OREGON WILDFIRE CONTAINMENT. The [Oregonian](#) (7/19, Spoerle, 815K) reports FEMA officials have authorized using federal funds to help pay for containing the Substation Fire in Oregon. An online [KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (7/19, 346K) report says the federal aid authorization was approved after FEMA officials "determined enough homes were at risk." The officials "also considered threats to major transmission lines that supply power to Oregon and California."

Western US Wildfires Include Deadly Oregon Blaze. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 6, 1:20, Holt, 7.33M) reported that

the Substation Fire in Oregon, which has been cited as the cause of at least one death, was one of a number of wildfires “raging across the West” on Thursday night. The Ferguson Fire in California, added the report, has gotten “dangerously close to Yosemite National Park.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 5, 0:10, Glor, 5.76M) reported, “An outbreak of wildfires has prompted” Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to declare a state of emergency. One of the largest wildfires in that state “has burned thousands of acres of wheat fields.” The story highlights that a “man was killed trying to protect his neighbor’s field.”

JUDGE ORDERS MORE TSA BENEFITS FOR HURRICANE MARIA-DISPLACED PUERTO RICANS. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Dobuzinskis) reports US District Court Judge Timothy Hillman has ordered another extension of Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) benefits for Hurricane Maria-displaced Puerto Ricans who have been staying in mainland US hotels. Dasha Castillo, a FEMA spokesperson, said the agency is complying with the order, which requires that the benefits be provided until at least August 7. In an email, Castillo said, “FEMA is working with its vendor and notifying participating hotels that the TSA program has been extended.” Reuters highlights that Hillman previously ordered the continuation of that program until July 23.

Coast Guard:

LAVA HITS TOUR BOAT IN HAWAII. [CNN International](#) (7/19, Boyette) reports, “A flying hunk of lava hit a tour boat and injured 23 people, who were aboard a tour boat named Hot Shot on Monday morning in Kapoho Bay, the Hawaii County Fire Department said.”

[CNN](#) (7/19, Boyette, 82.6M) reports, “Officials on Hawaii’s Big Island said they were not aware and not asked for input when the US Coast Guard granted certain vessels – namely lava tour boats – special permission to get closer to active lava flows in the ocean. ‘We would have liked to have known so we could give some input,’ said Wil Okabe, managing director of Hawaii County on Wednesday. ‘The lava in the ocean is very unpredictable. If that particular tour boat had gone several feet to the right, that explosion would have gone into the hull instead of the roof,’ Okabe said. ‘It’s a very unpredictable situation. It’s very dangerous.’” CNN adds, “After Monday’s incident, the US Coast Guard extended the required safety zone surrounding active lava flows in Hawaii.”

COAST GUARD TO PROBE DEADLY DUCK BOAT SINKING IN MISSOURI. [CNN](#) (7/19, Karimi, Sutton, 82.6M) reports, “A duck boat capsized and sunk during a severe thunderstorm in Missouri, killing at least 11 people, some of them children, authorities said.” CNN adds, “Stone County Sheriff Doug Rader said at least five people are unaccounted for and seven others were injured in Thursday night’s incident on Table Rock Lake near Branson.” The boat “was carrying 31 people, he said, and dive teams from various agencies are scouring the waters for potential victims.” According to CNN, “The investigation into the boat’s sinking will be conducted by the Coast Guard, said Sgt. Jason Pace of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which is assisting,” and “a team from the National Transportation Safety Board will travel to the scene Friday morning.”

Cyber News:

THREE TOP CYBERSECURITY OFFICIALS AT FBI TO RETIRE. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19, Volz, Holliday, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports three top cybersecurity officials at the FBI are retiring: assistant FBI director Scott Smith, who runs the FBI’s cyber division; David Resch, the executive assistant director of the FBI’s criminal, cyber, response and services branch; and Carl Ghattas, executive assistant director of the FBI’s national security branch. The departures come at a time in which cyberattacks are a major focus of the nation’s security agencies. The FBI confirmed the departures.

[CNN](#) (7/19, Shortell, Watkins, 82.6M) reports, “The moves are not atypical for FBI agents who have hit the work milestones that the men recently did, making them eligible to receive retirement benefits. But they come as threats in the cyber world, like Russia’s election interference and online foreign influence campaigns, have reached a point of alarm.” In a statement “provided by the FBI, Resch expressed a continued appreciation for the bureau and confidence in its director, Christopher Wray.” An FBI official “said Thursday that the retirements were not related to the wider climate around the bureau, and pointed to a hiring boom in the late 1990s that has led to a recent rise in senior agent retirements.”

Coverage by the [New York Post](#) (7/19, Tacopino, 4.46M) also cited the Journal’s report.

MICROSOFT EXECUTIVE DISCLOSES PHISHING ATTACK ON MIDTERM CANDIDATES. [NBC News](#) (7/19, Memoli, 5.76M) reports, “The campaigns of three candidates in the midterm elections were targeted in a phishing attack similar to the ones targeting the Clinton campaign in 2016, a top Microsoft executive said Thursday.” Tom Burt, the company’s executive in charge of customer security and trust, is quoted saying, “They were all people who, because of their

positions, might have been interesting targets from an espionage standpoint as well as an election disruption standpoint.” NBC adds, “The tactics were similar to those outlined in the indictment from special counsel Robert Mueller against Russian GRU operatives.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/19, Sebenius, 4.46M) reports, “Burt described the attacks after President Donald Trump first cast doubt on the U.S. intelligence finding that Russia interfered in the 2016 election and then backed the assessment.”

[Politico](#) (7/19, Geller, 3.51M) says this is “the first known example of cyber interference in the midterm elections.”

House Rejects New Election Security Funding Measure. The [AP](#) (7/19, Daly, Press) reports the House “eliminated new funding for states to strengthen election security, drawing protests from Democrats who said Republicans are not doing enough to prevent Russian meddling.” House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions “said...States still have money left from the current \$380 million appropriation, and lawmakers have not been made aware of any new requests for more money as the November midterm elections approach.”

Florida Approves Use Of Federal Election Security Grant. The [AP](#) (7/19, Farrington) reports, “Florida lawmakers on Thursday approved the use of a \$19 million federal grant to improve election security, a week after a federal indictment alleged Russian hackers targeted county offices before the 2016 presidential election.” State Senate Democratic Leader Oscar Braynon “wanted details about the attempted 2016 attacks before the Joint Legislative Budget Commission approved the election security money but got no new information from Secretary of State Ken Detzner.”

Prospect Of Direct Cyberattack On Voting Infrastructure Seen As Remote. [The Economist](#) (7/21, 2.35M) discusses the “two avenues” open to Russian hackers, should they “seek to intervene in the congressional elections in November.” The Economist says the “spectre of hackers in Moscow doctoring actual election results” through a direct cyberattack on voting machines or records “appears remote.”

FERC WANTS MORE DISCLOSURE OF CYBER ATTACKS. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Finkle) reports the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission “asked power generators to disclose more information about cyber attacks amid growing concern that foreign hackers could disrupt the electric grid.” FERC “called for the power industry’s regulating body, the North American Electric Reliability Corp, to expand rules that require reporting of cyber security incidents to include attempts that might facilitate future efforts to disrupt the grid.” The commission “requested the increased disclosure after the administration of President Donald Trump blamed the Russian government in March for a campaign of cyber attacks stretching back at least two years that targeted the U.S. power grid.”

Brichant: Securing US Energy Networks “Defining Challenge Of Our Time.” Ryan Brichant of ForeScout Technologies writes in [NextGov](#) (7/19, Brichant) that securing US energy networks “is a defining challenge of our time,” and “we should not let debates about any one piece of this energy portfolio’s future sideline the strategic priority of securing connected systems they all rely on everywhere.” Brichant adds, “Owners and operators of our power systems need better ways of knowing what assets (IT and otherwise) they have in their production environments, which have computing capability, and which (gulp!) connect to the internet.”

ANALYSIS: CHINESE HACKERS INCREASED ATTACKS ON FINNISH DEVICES AHEAD OF TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT. The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Boylan, 460K) reports, “Chinese hackers launched a massive attack on internet-connected devices in Finland in an attempt to sweep up audio and visual intelligence ahead of President Trump’s summit there with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a private cyber analysis released Thursday.” The Times says, “While Finland generally endures a minor amount of hacking activity, the analysis noted, overall cyber attacks jumped about 2,800 percent during the days surrounding the Trump-Putin summit.”

UK GOVERNMENT: HUAWEI HAS INCREASED BRITISH TELECOM NETWORK SECURITY RISKS. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Stubbs) reports that a UK government report says Huawei equipment’s technical and supply chain issues have exposed British telecom networks to new security risks. The assessment “will intensify the espionage debate around Huawei.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19, Cummins, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports similarly.

BILL WOULD BAN FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF ELECTION SYSTEMS VENDORS. The [AP](#) (7/19) reports, “Days after Maryland officials announced that an election service vendor was acquired by a company linked to a Russian oligarch, two congressmen are introducing legislation requiring that election systems vendors are owned and controlled by domestic companies.” The Protecting Election Systems from Foreign Control Act “would also require the Department of Homeland Security and the Election Assistance Commission to provide guidance and technical assistance to state and local election agencies.”

BILL WOULD CODIFY CDM. [NextGov](#) (7/19, Boyd) reports that US Rep. John Ratcliffe “is a fan of one of the Homeland Security Department’s governmentwide cybersecurity initiatives,” CDM, “and has introduced legislation to ensure it sticks around and evolves along with private-sector technology.”

NEW FEDERAL CISO NAMED. [NextGov](#) (7/19, Kuldell, Boyd) reports, “The Office of Management and Budget announced Grant Schneider will be the second federal chief information security officer.” Schneider “has been filling the CISO role in an acting capacity and is the National Security Council’s senior director for cybersecurity.”

[CyberScoop](#) (7/19, Lyngaas) reports that “veteran government IT official” Grant Schneider has been tapped to serve as the Federal chief information security officer, “an influential policy role charged with implementing cybersecurity practices across the executive branch, the Office of Management and Budget announced Thursday.” OMB official said Schneider “brings extensive cybersecurity experience well aligned to lead efforts in securing government systems from cyberattacks.” Schneider “had been serving as federal CISO on an acting basis until today. He is also a senior director for cybersecurity at the National Security Council (NSC), where he helps manage the government’s cyber defense strategy.”

SOME IN TECH INDUSTRY PUSHING BACK ON FOSTA-SESTA SEX TRAFFICKING LAW. [NBC News](#) (7/19, 5.76M) reports, “The tech industry-funded nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) will urge a federal judge Thursday to stall enforcement of [a] law, known as FOSTA-SESTA, which holds websites accountable if they knowingly facilitate criminal activity like human trafficking that happens on their platforms.” While FOSTA-SESTA “was hailed as a victory by many advocates for survivors of sex trafficking, some in the tech community have pushed back on the law over concerns that the government is moving to require tech companies to censor the internet.” The law was signed into law by President Trump in April, and “championed by members of Congress who have been working for years to crack down on bad actors like Backpage.com.” EFF lawyer Robert Corn-Revere “has previously represented Backpage.com,” which was “shut down by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE: LABCORP LATEST US HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY PLAYER IMPACTED BY DATA BREACH.

In continuing coverage, [Forbes](#) (7/19, Mathews, 10.34M) reports, “LabCorp is one of the world’s largest clinical laboratory testing groups,” and it “became the latest entry on the list of U.S. healthcare industry players to be impacted by a data breach.” On Tuesday, “an FBI spokesperson confirmed that the Bureau is aware of a ‘possible ransomware attack involving LabCorp’s network system.’” [Digital Trends](#) (7/19, Nguyen, 472K) reports, “Millions of patient health records may be at risk.” LabCorp “is downplaying the incident, noting that there is ‘no evidence of unauthorized transfer or misuse of data.’”

Terrorism Investigations:

ALGERIAN MAN ACCUSED OF RECRUITING “JIHAD JANE” SET TO CHANGE PLEA TO GUILTY. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Shiffman) reports Ali Charaf Damache, “an Algerian man accused of recruiting an American woman known as ‘Jihad Jane’ in 2009 and who originally pleaded not guilty to a U.S. charge of supporting terrorism, is expected to change his plea to guilty, a court filing showed on Thursday.” Damache, 53, “a dual Irish and Algerian citizen,” was extradited to the U.S. last year “and while none of the plans U.S. prosecutors accused him of resulted in attacks, authorities said he was in direct contact with Islamist militants in Pakistan and recruited two American women to help him.” One of the women, “Colleen LaRose, who called herself ‘Jihad Jane’ online,” told Reuters in 2012 “that after moving to Ireland to live with him, she became disillusioned by his lack of follow-through, and allowed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to buy her a ticket to return to the United States.” The [AP](#) (7/19) also reports.

PUBLICATION ASKS APPEALS COURT FOR TRIAL IN LAWSUIT SEEKING FBI 9/11 RECORDS. The [AP](#) (7/19, Anderson) reports an online publication, the Florida Bulldog, “asked a federal appeals court Thursday to order a trial be held on its Freedom of Information Act lawsuit seeking FBI documents that may reveal a U.S.-based support network for the 9/11 hijackers.” The case “centers on reporting published by the Florida Bulldog about the FBI investigation into a Saudi Arabian family that abruptly left a Sarasota home two weeks before the 2001 terror attacks. One FBI document that was released said that agents had found ‘many connections’ in 2002 between the family and some hijackers.”

ANALYSIS: CLEVELAND JULY FOURTH TERRORIST ATTACK PLOT STING HIGHLIGHTS BALANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENTRAPMENT. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/19, 1.03M) reports, “Federal agents and prosecutors described the arrest of a man accused of plotting a Fourth of July terrorist attack in Cleveland as the latest example of authorities heading off a potential threat before it could come to fruition. But in the days since the arrest, critics have questioned if Demetrius Pitts had the capability to carry out the attack he is accused of plotting.” In the Pitts case, “FBI special agent in charge Stephen Anthony said authorities could not ‘sit back and wait for Mr. Pitts to commit a violent attack.’” Defense attorneys and civil rights activists “counter by saying the Pitts case may be the latest in a series of controversial cases involving Muslim persons labeled as homegrown terrorists. They expressed concern that many counter-terrorism prosecutions amount to ‘sting operations’ where undercover agents lead vulnerable people who exhibit

signs of mental illness to the edge of committing crimes."

In a separate piece, the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/19, 1.03M) reports Pitts was in Magistrate Judge David Ruiz's courtroom Thursday "for a hearing on a waiver of his speedy trial rights, which gives the US Attorney's Office an additional two months to charge him."

AMERICAN FIGHTING FOR ISIS IN SYRIA CAPTURED, FACES PROSECUTION IN US. The [New York Times](#) (7/19, Callimachi, Schmitt, Savage, 19.33M) reports, "Coalition-backed forces in northern Syria have captured" Ibraheem Musaibli, "a 28-year-old United States citizen who is believed to have been fighting for the Islamic State, one of only a handful of Americans to be apprehended on the battlefield, officials said." Musaibli, from Dearborn, MI, "was seized by the Syrian Democratic Forces this month." Authorities "have set in motion a plan to bring him to the United States for prosecution." The case "is a test of America's ability to legally pursue suspected members of the terrorist group captured on the battlefield." Spokesmen "for the State, Justice and Defense Departments, and for the F.B.I., declined to comment."

The [Detroit News](#) (7/19, Snell, Rahal, 710K) reports, "The roots of the FBI investigation were unclear Thursday. But sealed federal court records in Detroit indicate FBI agents were investigating a man with a similar last name last year."

ANALYSIS: NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL SECURITY DANGERS OF SOCIAL MEDIA. In a piece for the [Task & Purpose](#) (7/19, Voyles, 77K), Katherine Voyles reviews "Clint Watts's engaging new book, 'Messing With the Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians, and Fake News,'" which is about "forms of engagement." Watts' experiences "as an Army officer and FBI agent are important to his background." Watts "writes about how social media is exploited to widen divisions between people, organizations, and states."

JUDGE ORDERS RELEASE OF EX-MARINE CONVICTED ON SEVERAL TERROR COUNTS. The [AP](#) (7/19) reports, "A federal judge in Virginia called for the immediate release Thursday" of Seifullah Chapman, "a former Marine who was training with a Pakistani terrorist group shortly before the Sept. 11 attacks occurred." US District Judge Leonie Brinkema "ordered several counts of...Chapman's conviction vacated" and ordered his release. He was serving a 65-year sentence. In April, "four terrorism defendants, including Chapman, argued they were convicted under a law that was...vague about describing a 'crime of violence.'"

OHIO MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS IN PRISON FOR 2016 BOMB THREAT. [WDTN-TV](#) Dayton, OH (7/19) reports Dana Carter, 40, of Dayton, "was sentenced to four months in prison" Thursday for "making a false bomb threat." On October 22, 2016, "Carter made multiple phone calls to the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport to report that there was a bomb on an outbound United Airlines flight to Dallas, Texas." The FBI's Northern Kentucky Joint Terrorism Task Force "and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Police Department conducted the investigation."

HAJJAR: GOVERNMENT SECRETЫ ON TORTURE HAS STYMIED 9/11 TERROR PROSECUTION. In a 5,400-word piece for [The Nation](#) (7/19, 378K), Lisa Hajjar argues that with the delivery of two FBI memos which "provide snapshots of the rise and fall of the US torture program," the "confluence of recent developments at Guantánamo illustrates that torture is not a thing of the past for the men on trial or for the attorneys who represent them." Meanwhile, prosecutors are "exasperat[ed]," insisting "that the real crime – the mass murders on 9/11 – is being sidelined in the tussle over discovery." Hajjar, who details developments in the 9/11 case, concludes that "these unresolved and bitter conflicts over how this case should proceed make the prospect of a start date for the trial increasingly dim. This endlessness renders new meaning to the billing of the 9/11 case as 'the trial of the century.'"

MICHIGAN MAN ARRESTED IN SYRIA ON SUSPICION OF FIGHTING FOR ISIS. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (7/19, Zaniewski, 1.21M) reports that Ibraheem Musaibli of Dearborn, Michigan "was arrested in Syria earlier this month on suspicion of being a fighter" for ISIS. He was arrested "as he tried to escape the Middle Euphrates River Valley, an area where the American-backed Syrian Democratic Forces has been trying to squash remaining pockets" of ISIS control.

JURY FAILS TO REACH VERDICT IN UK TERROR CASE. [BBC News Online \(UK\)](#) (7/19, 1.57M) reports, "A jury has failed to reach a verdict" on Mohammed Aqib Imran, "a man accused of telling undercover officers he wanted [to] fight in Libya." The Old Bailey "heard he had allegedly contacted IS commanders online – but was really speaking to the FBI and MI5."

WTIMES ANALYSIS: HOUTHI REBELS EXPOSE LIMITS OF US STRATEGY. The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Muñoz, 460K) reports Houthi rebels' "control over key areas of Yemen, despite a blistering assault by US-backed Saudi and Emirati military forces, has sent a difficult message to Washington: Arab powers armed with American weaponry and targeting intelligence isn't going to be enough to crush Tehran's armed proxies around the Middle East." The White House, it says, "must grapple with this reality as it pushes Gulf Arab allies to play a central role in carrying out President

Trump's promise to confront and rein in Iranian meddling" in the region, analysts say.

National Security News:

DOJ TO ISSUE ALERTS ABOUT FOREIGN OPERATIONS AGAINST US DEMOCRACY. The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Mordock, 460K) reports that the Justice Department on Thursday announced that under a new policy, "the government will inform companies, organizations and individuals they suspect are under a cyber attack by foreign operatives seeking to disrupt elections." However, the DOJ "conceded it may not be 'possible or prudent' to inform victims in certain contexts," and also "said it will only publicly disclose threats when it attributes a cyberattack to a foreign government 'with high confidence.'" The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Nakashima, 15.68M) reports Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "announced the policy at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado," saying, "Exposing schemes to the public is an important way to neutralize them. ... The American people have a right to know if foreign governments are targeting them with propaganda."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/19, Strohm, 4.46M) said Rosenstein's comments came as the DOJ released a 156-page report "describing the department's plans to respond to cybersecurity threats and, in particular, malign foreign influence operations." It "identifies five categories of malicious influence operations, many of which appeared to address point-by-point findings by the American intelligence community about Russian activities during the 2016 election." The five categories "include hacking attacks on election infrastructure; covert and overt operations to harm or assist political organizations; and activities to manipulate public opinion or sow divisions."

The [New York Times](#) (7/19, Benner, 19.33M) reports "Rosenstein said Russia has long used malign influence operations to attack the United States and other countries," and [USA Today](#) (7/19, Hayes, 11.4M) that he "made it a point to emphasize foreign meddling in American politics was not a partisan issue but rather something that should trouble everyone." Said Rosenstein, "Covert propaganda disseminated by foreign agents is fundamentally different from domestic partisan wrangling. ... Influence operations are a form of information warfare. Covert propaganda and disinformation are the primary weapons."

Meanwhile, [Fox News](#) (7/19, Re, 16.38M) says the first public report of the DOJ's Cyber-Digital Task Force "also focused on other cyberthreats facing the U.S., including attacks on infrastructure and privacy." Rosenstein said Thursday: "Every day, malicious cyberactors infiltrate computers and accounts of individual citizens, businesses, the military and all levels of government." He added that "the Russian effort to influence the 2016 presidential election is just one tree in a growing forest. Focusing merely on a single election misses the point."

[Politico](#) (7/19, Geller, 3.51M) reports the DOJ report "describes a range of challenges hampering the government's ability to fight more traditional cybercrime and recommends possible solutions." The biggest impediment cited in the report is encryption and other technology that prevents investigators from accessing data. The report recommends seven ways for DOJ to respond to this problem, including "considering whether legislation to address encryption (and all related service provider access) challenges should be pursued."

[NBC News](#) (7/19, 5.76M) reports that while the report "described the nature of foreign influence operations and the efforts by the Justice Department and the FBI to monitor, expose and, in some cases, prosecute those involved," it "focused exclusively on the activities of the Justice Department, even while acknowledging that 'the malign foreign influence threat' requires 'a unified, strategic approach across all government agencies.'"

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS SENATE UAV BILL. [ExecutiveGov](#) (7/19, Rivers) reports, "The Trump administration has expressed support for a Senate bill that would authorize the departments of Homeland Security and Justice to develop, test and deploy technology aimed at countering unmanned aircraft systems that pose safety risks to the public." The act "also proposes measures to further commercial drone market development, protect privacy and civil liberties and increase the safety of national airspace operations, the White House said Tuesday."

TROMBLAY: NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIRES A FULLER VIEW OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. In a 1,800-word piece for [Just Security](#) (7/19), former intelligence analyst Darren Tromblay argues that in light of conflicts between the "corporate world" and the "US national security apparatus" over issues like encryption and social media's role in "facilitating terrorist ideologies and...foreign-sponsored influence campaigns," companies need to ensure their corporate social responsibility (CSR) paradigm includes "considerations of national security." He says the "private sector needs to fully accept the responsibilities to the rule-of-law and transparent governance that a fully-elaborated interpretation of CSR requires." Meanwhile, the government "needs to assess how to achieve the outcome it wants, through market-based incentives." The "alternative – imposing new regulations that dictate additional obligations – has the potential to create its own unintended consequences, including chilling innovation, that will not be easy to reverse."

Other DHS News:

DEMOCRATS GRILL CFPB NOMINEE ON IMMIGRATION POLICY, HER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Johnson) reports that “there were heated exchanges” during a Senate Banking Committee hearing on the nomination of the OMB’s Kathy Kraninger to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regarding Kraninger’s “involvement in the government’s ‘zero tolerance’ immigration policy.” Reuters reports that Kraninger “said several times she had no role in setting or developing that policy, but added when pushed that she had attended meetings relating to its implementation.” According to Reuters, Democrats also “repeatedly pressed” Kraninger “on her role in setting and implementing the policy slammed by both Democrats and Republicans and on whether she had relevant experience to lead” the CFPB. Reuters says “Democrats and even some conservative Republicans have said Kraninger, who is not well known in Washington, lacks relevant consumer finance experience.” The [AP](#) (7/19, Sweet) says Kraninger nevertheless “appears to be on her way to getting confirmed later this year.” According to the AP, “Kraninger’s confirmation seems all but certain.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/19, Puzzanghera, 4.03M) reports, “In a highly charged confirmation hearing,” Senate Democrats “aggressively ripped into” Kraninger. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who “could barely control her rage,” said that Kraninger’s involvement in the border child-separation policy “is a moral stain that will follow you for the rest of your life,” adding, “If the Senate votes to give a big promotion to you after this, then it is a stain on the senators who do so.” Sen. Robert Menendez said, “You were a significant architect of the Trump administration’s response in Puerto Rico, which was at best botched and incompetent. At worst it reflects the administration’s most insidious views about Hispanic Americans.” Similarly, [Politico](#) (7/19, O’Donnell, Warmbrodt, 3.51M) reports Kraninger “faced withering criticism.”

IMMIGRATION DEFENSE GROUP REJECTS SALESFORCE.COM DONATION OVER CBP CONTRACT. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Menn) reports from San Francisco, “A leading nonprofit group helping immigrant families reunite at the U.S. border on Thursday rejected a \$250,000 donation from Salesforce.com Inc in protest at the cloud-computing company’s contract with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency.” According to Reuters, “The rejection by the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services follows efforts by Salesforce.com to allay concerns among its employees about its involvement in enforcing policies of the Trump administration that have led children to be separated from their immigrant parents.” The company “has been seeking to donate \$1 million to various causes.” Reuters adds, “Texas-based RAICES, a group of about 130 immigration defense lawyers and supporters, said it could not accept the money unless Salesforce.com dropped its contract with Customs and Border Protection. ‘It’s not acceptable to us that a corporation washes its hands of its sin by doling out a few tokens to those who work against it,’ RAICES Executive Director Jonathan Ryan told Reuters on Wednesday.”

BORDER OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY CONFISCATE FAMILY’S \$500K INHERITANCE. [Newsweek](#) (7/19, Moritz-Rabson, 2.18M) reports, “The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been holding a family’s \$500,000 inheritance for almost a year, news outlet CBC News reported on Thursday.” According to Newsweek, “U.S. law prohibits moving more than \$10,000 into or out of the country without first notifying the government,” and “as a result, David Saikaley from Ottawa is blaming TD Canada Trust bank for telling him to mail the money to relatives across the border.” Saikaley “acted as the executor of a relative’s will and delivered money to a beneficiary whose health is declining and has an estimated \$60,000 in medical bills to pay,” but “when he rushed to send bank drafts across the border, U.S. officials seized the mail.” Newsweek adds that CBP “refuses to release the money and sent Saikaley a letter saying the checks were counterfeit.”

Global Media:

EU TO STEP UP LEGAL BATTLE OVER HUNGARY’S MIGRATION POLICY. [Reuters](#) (7/19, Staff) reports, “The European Commission on Thursday stepped up a legal battle with Hungary over EU migration rules and denounced as illegal its ‘Stop Soros’ law that criminalizes support for asylum seekers.” Reuters says, “The move will further sour Brussels’s relations with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports similarly.

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